

it. No layer of vibratile cilia was to be seen distinctly, but indications of them seemed to exist upon portions which had been long in osmic acid. The cells taper at their base and at the same time bend in different directions; and these basal prolongations anastomose and form a very delicate network of fibrillæ, which, by their union, constitute at the base of the epithelial layer a regular little zone, intermediate between the nerve-fibres and the foot of the cells; a few nuclei are distinguishable in it. This plexus rests against the connective envelope, which is formed by a thin and dense membrane, presenting perforations, through which the basilar plexus enters into relations with the nerve-fibres.—*Comptes Rendus*, March 24, 1884, p. 757.

*On Prof. Lindström's Remarks on Prof. Martin Duncan's Criticisms.*

*To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.*

GENTLEMEN,—With reference to Prof. Lindström's communication to the *Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.* for March 1884, p. 162, I wish to inform you that, having sought the opinion of some naturalists well qualified to judge between Prof. Lindström and myself, I find that the language I used was not of a kind to merit the condemnation of being "by no means consistent with the quiet tone that ought to prevail in scientific discussions." It appears to them and to me that Prof. Lindström took unnecessary offence and that his tone was very uncourteous.

I can assure you that nothing was further from my thoughts than to give him personal offence; but he must remember that his communication which I wrote upon was eminently critical, and was bound sooner or later to provoke discussion. I gave the reasons for not having sooner attempted a reply. Probably when some time has elapsed Prof. Lindström will read my essay with more charitable and kindlier feelings; and it may happen that we may criticize one another as Pourtalès and I did, with advantage to ourselves and with the establishment of a sincere friendship.

Yours truly,

P. MARTIN DUNCAN.

April 10, 1884.

*Reproduction in Amphileptus fasciola.*

By ANDREW S. PARKER, M.D., Ph.D.

Several years ago, while examining some Infusoria, I noticed a specimen of *Amphileptus fasciola* undergoing some curious changes, the nature of which, at that time, I did not fully appreciate, supposing them to be due to the dissolution of the animal. Recently I observed the same series of phenomena occurring in another individual, and on tracing them out more fully I found that they were due, not to the death of the Infusorian, but to what I believe is a method of reproduction not hitherto observed, or at least not described, in this group. My attention, in both instances, was attracted by a peculiar oscillating movement, the *Amphileptus* rocking from side to side, the animal remaining stationary, although its